

WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and
workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 17, 2006

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING REACHES NEW RECORD LOW: JUST 2 PERCENT OF MOTORISTS IN FEBRUARY

The percentage of motorists speeding aggressively in DC's photo radar enforcement zones reached a new record low during February, according to new statistics from the MPDC. Of the more than 2.7 million vehicles that passed through the speeding enforcement zones during the month, fewer than 56,000 – or just slightly more than 2 percent – were found to be traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. The previous record low rate of aggressive speeding was 2.5 percent, registered in October 2005. By contrast, the aggressive speeding rate was more than 16 percent in February 2002 and nearly 31 percent in July 2001, the first month that the District's photo radar cameras were in operation. Looked at in another way, while nearly 1 in 3 motorists was speeding aggressively at the beginning of the automated speed enforcement program, just 1 in 49 motorists was speeding aggressively last month. In addition to helping to reduce aggressive speeding, the photo radar program has also contributed to reductions in the average speeds of all vehicles on DC roadways monitored by the cameras, especially residential streets. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was 24.2 mph in February 2006 – down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. In 30-mph zones, the average motorist was also traveling below the speed limit (27.6 mph) during February 2006; that compares with an average speed of almost 8 mph above the speed limit (37.6 mph) in July 2001. DC's photo radar speeding reduction program currently includes 10 stationary cameras and 12 mobile photo radar vehicles that are deployed in targeted enforcement zones throughout the city. Since August 2001, nearly 1.77 million photo radar Notices of Infraction have been mailed and about 1.32 million have been paid, resulting in fines of just under \$100 million. This level of consistent speeding enforcement has been achieved without taking officers from neighborhood patrols and other community policing assignments.

- ① Detailed information about the photo radar program is available at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547970,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|,asp
- ① DC also has 49 intersection safety cameras designed to cut down on red-light running in the District. Since August 1999, the cameras have contributed to a 73 percent reduction in red-light running violations at the intersections equipped with cameras. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|,asp

MPDC CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE TAXICAB ROBBERIES

MPDC detectives are continuing to investigate a series of robberies or attempted robberies of taxi cab drivers within the Fourth Police District in Northwest DC. The string of incidents began on the evening of March 3, with an attempted robbery of a cab driver in the 1300 block of Hamilton Street, NW. In this case, a subject reportedly assaulted a cab driver in an attempt to obtain money. A struggle ensued, and the cab crashed before the suspect fled. Over the next five days, similar crimes against cab drivers were reported in the 1300 block of Kennedy Street, NW; at 13th Street and Quebec Place, NW; at 8th Street and Illinois Avenue, NW; in the 800 block of Allison Street, NW, and in the 900 block of Aspen Street, NW, where two separate incidents were reported. Detectives are trying to determine if the same individual is responsible for all of the incidents. While the exact description of the suspect is slightly different in each of the reported crimes, each case involved a lone black male, generally described as being in his 20s or 30s, and usually 6 feet or shorter. In several of the cases, the suspect was reported to be wearing a yellow or brown jacket. Anyone with information about these cases is asked to call police at (202) 727-9099. The MPDC currently offers a reward of up to \$5,000 to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any robbery committed in the District of Columbia.

- ① Details on these recent crimes against taxi cab drivers are at:
<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=346000>
- ① While none of the taxi cab incidents has involved attacks or threats against passengers, safety on public transportation is always an important consideration. For valuable safety tips on riding Metrorail and buses, go to:
<http://www.wmata.com/riding/safety/safety.cfm>

WARMER WEATHER TO BRING OPEN-AIR MINI STATIONS BACK TO DC STREETS

Each Spring, warmer weather in DC brings out more than cherry blossoms and tourists. Spring also means the return of the MPDC's Open-Air MiniStations. Open-Air MiniStations are highly visible, picnic-table-and-chair sets that serve as outdoor, portable police facilities. Each police district has at least one MiniStation; most districts have more than one. The MiniStations are temporarily placed in different communities for varying periods of time, to help the MPDC deter criminal activity and better serve residents and visitors. The MiniStations serve two main purposes: (1) to let drug dealers, gang members and other criminals know that illegal activity will not be tolerated in the community, and (2) to help law-abiding residents with information and assistance for building a safe and healthy neighborhood. At each MiniStation, residents can file a police report, provide information about crime and disorder problems in their community, and obtain information about MPDC programs and services. The MiniStations are generally deployed when the temperatures are in the upper-60s or higher.

DDOT INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT ON RELIGIOUS PARKING PROPOSALS

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) invites public comments on proposals to increase parking spaces adjacent to and around religious congregations and to step up enforcement against parking violations. Enforcement by DC parking officials is likely to start later this spring. "The goal of these proposals is an easy-to-understand, enforceable, safe system that allows congregations to park near their places of worship and residents access to their cars," said Acting Director of Transportation Michelle Pourciau. "We will work with all the concerned parties – the residents, the congregations, the DC government agencies – to develop site-specific procedures that work for everybody, just as we did for the Convention Center, the MCI (now Verizon) Arena and RFK Stadium during the baseball season." For three weeks before enforcement starts, DDOT will work with the Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Religious Affairs Office to distribute warning leaflets/brochures, as was done last year in Capitol Hill neighborhoods at the start of the baseball season. After the warning period, parking officials will step up enforcement of illegal parking around places of worship. Development of these policies and procedures has been a cooperative effort of DDOT, DPW, MPDC and the Executive Office of the Mayor.

NEWS & NOTES

National Marathon in DC on March 25. The 2006 National Marathon & Half will take place in DC and Prince George's County on Saturday, March 25, beginning at 7 am. Both events will start at RFK Stadium and tour some of DC's most famous landmarks, monuments and memorials, including the National Mall, Capitol Hill, the Southwest Waterfront, Navy Yard, Anacostia and Fort Dupont. Spectators and local residents will have great sight lines throughout the route, with many opportunities to participate in activities that will take place around the course and at the Finish Line Festival at RFK Stadium. This event will also necessitate some street closures and parking restrictions, which will be announced shortly. For current details on the race, including a course map, visit <http://www.nationalmarathon.com>.

US Attorney Nominated for Top Federal Post. President Bush this week announced his intention to nominate Kenneth L. Wainstein, currently the US Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Attorney General for National Security in the Justice Department. A veteran prosecutor, Mr. Wainstein has worked closely with the MPDC on a number of crime-fighting initiatives over the last two years, including Project Safe Neighborhoods, homicide reduction, hate crimes prevention and community policing/prosecution. Details at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/03/20060313.html>

Court Reports Available. The Community Prosecution staff of the US Attorney's Office regularly publishes reports containing summaries of significant cases in each police district that were prosecuted during the previous month. These Court Reports discuss crimes that occurred in DC neighborhoods and provide updates on the criminal convictions of those who commit these crimes. Access the reports for January 2006 at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html

① Residents are encouraged to stop by the MiniStations in their communities, get to know the officers involved. Learn more about the Open-Air MiniStations by visiting:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,546920,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp

② To request the temporary placement of an Open-Air MiniStation in your community, contact your local police district. To find out what police district and police service area you live in, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543336,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_|.asp

③ Read the full news release and proposed policies at:
http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1252,q,635512,ddotNav_GID,1610.asp

④ Comments on the proposed religious parking policies should be directed to Ann Simpson-Mason, DDOT Policy and Planning Administration, at (202) 671-2740 or e-mail Ann.Simpson-Mason@dc.gov

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 3/17/06
◆ 2006: 33
◆ 2005: 36
◆ % Change: -8.3%
◆ Closure Rate: 54.5% (18 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 3/11/06
◆ Total: 974
◆ Weapons: 41
◆ Robbery: 12
◆ Auto Theft: 13
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 36

Juvenile Activity week end. 3/11/06
◆ Arrests: 75
◆ Curfew Violators: 25
◆ Truants: 91

Firearm Recoveries as of 3/15/06
◆ March: 104
◆ 2006 Total: 550

Traffic Fatalities as of 3/17/06
◆ 2006: 10
◆ 2005: 10
◆ % Change: Unchanged

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crime-reports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov